

City of Concord, New Hampshire

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Bradley C. Osgood Chief of Police

Parking Committee Meeting

June 15, 2015

Present: Mark Coen, City Council Representative, Chair

Allen Bennett, City Council Representative Jeff Bart, General Public Representative

Staff: Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager

Robert Mack, Traffic Engineer

Matt Walsh, Dir. of Redevelopment, Downtown Services & Special

Projects

Guests: Jim Bouley, Mayor

1. Overview of Agenda

2. Adoption of Minutes

Jeff Bart moved to accept the March 16, 2015 meeting minutes. Allen Bennett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Referrals for Recommendation

a. Chapel Street: Request to reorganize on-street parking on south side of the street to minimize conflicts with driveways on the north side of the street.

Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services & Special Projects presented the committee a referral from Roy Schweiker, Chapel Street resident. Mr. Walsh provided a summary of the request, as well as a number of additional issues which were raised during a neighborhood meeting with Chapel Street residents on May 26, 2015:

1) Chapel / North State Intersection: Some residents requested that the City consider increasing the no parking setback at the North State St / Chapel Street intersection (east side of N. State, south of Chapel Street). Mr. Walsh reported that Parking setbacks currently comply with the ordinance. Therefore, staff does not support changing parking at this location at the present time.

- 2) Chapel Street Modification of On-Street Parking: Residents requested that the City consider modifications to on-street parking due to narrowness of the street (generally 17'), and challenges presented therewith regarding entering / exiting private driveways on the north side of the road. Mr. Walsh reported that, working with those who attended the neighborhood meeting on May 26th, City staff crafted a proposal, which would limit on-street parking to 3 designate locations per a map provided to the Parking Committee. Parking spaces would be designated by signage in lieu of pavement markings due to the narrow nature of this two-way street.
- 3) Rollins Street Creation of On-Street Parking: Mr. Walsh reported that during the neighborhood meeting, it was suggested that the City consider creating on-street parking on Rollins Street. Rollins is very narrow at 17' and currently has zero on-street parking. Mr. Walsh stated that, upon consulting with the Fire Department, staff does not recommend that on-street parking be established on Rollins Street, as such an action would create challenges for CFD apparatus.
- 4) Winter Parking Ban on Chapel Street: Mr. Walsh also reported that, during the neighborhood meeting, residents asked that the City consider banning parking on Chapel Street by ordinance during winter months (perhaps November 15 April 15) due to extra narrowing of the street seasonally due to snow banks. Mr. Walsh stated that staff does not support this approach, as, presently, staff has the authority to sign Chapel "Emergency No Parking" during winter months as conditions necessitate. Further, the City Administration desires to avoid creating a patchwork of streets where seasonal on-street parking is banned, as this will create confusion for enforcement and the general public. Lastly, staff does not want to arbitrarily limit on-street parking during light winters.
- 5) Speed Enforcement: Mr. Walsh also reported that residents complained about speeding on the street. CPD has done spot speed checks on the street. No tickets have been issued to date. However CPD has met with the management of a local pizza shop to discuss speeding delivery drivers.

Following Mr. Walsh's presentation, members of the neighborhood provided comments to the Parking Committee. Some members of the public supported the staff recommendations while others spoke against. In addition, a petition was presented to the Parking Committee asking that no changes be made to the status quo.

Motion: Allen Bennett moved to proceed with the staff recommendation to limit on-street parking to designated locations on the south side of Chapel Street. Jeff Bart seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Long Pond / Little Pond Road Intersection: Request to post no parking signs.

Mr. Walsh provided an overview of the request. He noted that the purpose of the signs would be to discourage vehicular use of a woods road at the Swope Conservation property, in order to cut down on undesirable activity at the property. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Parking Committee that installation of "no parking signs" would likely be ineffective. Rather, they endorsed a proposal to install a gate to prevent vehicular access to the woods road. No further action was taken upon this request.

c. Liberty Street: On-Street Parking (between Wyman and Walker Streets) and Use of City Construction Staging Area.

Mr. Walsh provided a brief report to the Parking Committee. He explained that Andy Tarbell, resident of 50 Walker Street Extension, asked that the City to limit on-street parking along Liberty Street during Little League events at Grappone Park as the situation according to Mr. Tarbell was unsafe and hindered emergency vehicles from using Liberty Street. He also asked the City to ban parking in an island at the intersection of Walker Street Extension and Liberty Street.

Mr. Walsh provided pictures of parking at the aforementioned locations, which were taken during a Little League event on May 26th. Mr. Walsh stated that he discussed safety issues for emergency response vehicles with Fire Marshall Sean Brown and that CFD had no concerns regarding the current parking arrangement.

Members of the Parking Committee discussed the request. They also discussed the history of the reconstruction of the Walker Street Ext / Liberty Street intersection. Given the limited nature of the Little League season (approximately 8 weeks), and confirmation from Concord Fire that there is not impediment for emergency response vehicles, it was the consensus of the Parking Committee to take no action at this time.

4. Capital Commons Parking Garage Reorganization Plan

Mr. Walsh reported that signage bids were received for the reorganization and work would be completed in July. He noted the total cost of the reorganization would be approximately \$7,000 and involves relocation of approximately 675 signs as well as 2 kiosk pay stations.

5. Parking Lease Update

a. Discussion of available spaces. Mr. Walsh provided a summary of available parking spaces in the Capital Commons, Durgin, and Firehouse garages, as well as the Dixon Avenue Parking Lot. b. Recent supplemental billing for property taxes. Mr. Walsh reported that the City recently invoiced parking lessees additional rent totaling approximately \$29,000 due to property tax escalations. Mr. Walsh reported that significant bills were sent to owners of the Capital Commons and SMILE buildings, as well as Concord Hospital as tax escalations had not been billed previously as permitted by the lease agreements.

6. Strategic Parking Plan Update

Mr. Walsh provided a brief update. He explained that the City Administration plans to bring the final Strategic Parking Plan to the City Council in August for a public hearing in September. He explained the project has been delayed as staff wanted to craft a detailed implementation plan for the City Council's adoption, together with a financial pro forma associated therewith. He also noted that additional time was needed to review the taxability of parking permits as well as about potential costs associated with the implementation of Pay-By-Cell Phone technology.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Adjourn

Jeff Bart moved to adjourn. Allen Bennett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Walsh, Dir. of Redevelopment, Downtown Services & Special Projects